

REV. STARKY WILSON – BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

The Reverend Starsky D. Wilson is president & CEO of Deaconess Foundation, a faith-based grant making organization devoted to making child well-being a civic priority in the St. Louis region. Since he took the helm in 2011, the foundation selected a new round of Deaconess Impact Partners, launched a community capacity building initiative to strengthen care for children through advocacy, community engagement and public policy, expanded the Deaconess Nursing Scholars Program and increased foundation assets by more than ten percent.

Since 2008, Wilson has served Saint John's Church (The Beloved Community) as pastor. He has led congregational activism on myriad issues, including youth violence prevention, Medicaid expansion, public school accreditation, voter mobilization, capping payday lending and raising the minimum wage, while more than tripling worship attendance and financial stewardship. Through the church, Pastor Wilson established *The Beloved Community Conference* and *Sojourner's Truth: A Celebration of Preaching Women*.

Rev. Wilson is co-chair of the Ferguson Commission, charged to make policy recommendations to strengthen the region after the tragic death of Michael Brown, Jr. He serves national boards for the United Church of Christ Cornerstone Fund and the Samuel Dewitt Proctor Conference and regional ones for the United Way of Greater St. Louis, YMCA of Greater St. Louis, FOCUS-St. Louis, Teach for America-St. Louis and the Mayor's Commission on Children, Youth and Families, where he co-chaired the Regional Youth Violence Prevention Task Force. Under his leadership, the Urban League Young Professionals established St. Louis' *Young Blacks Give Back* effort which has provided thousands of community service hours to non-profits over the last twelve years.

Starsky earned a bachelor of arts in political science from Xavier University of Louisiana, master of divinity from Eden Theological Seminary and is currently pursuing the doctor of ministry degree from Duke University's Divinity School. A member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and Eta Boule of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Starsky is married to Dr. LaToya Smith Wilson, a dentist at St. Louis Children's Hospital. They are raising three sons in the city of St. Louis.

In recent years, Rev. Wilson's leadership has been honored with numerous awards including:

- 2015 Mathews-Dickey Boys' and Girls' Club Bill Maritz Award
- 2015 NCCJ St. Louis Brotherhood Sisterhood Award
- 2015 United for Children "Lighting the Way" Award
- 2015 Family Resource Center Pott Foundation Child Advocacy Award
- 2015 St. Louis Business Journal "40 Under 40" Award
- 2014 Xavier University "40 Under 40" Young Alumni Award
- 2014 St. Louis Children's Hospital Community Advocate of the Year Award
- 2013 Urban League Young Professionals Civic Engagement and Social Justice Award
- 2012 St. Louis Equal Housing and Opportunity Council Open Door Award
- 2012 YMCA of Greater St. Louis Human Dignity Award
- 2011 Alexander-Pulaski County NAACP Martin Luther King, Jr. Award